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Cross country skiing provides winter enjoyment



Alberta
CANADA 

EDUCATION IN ALBERTA



The Alberta education system offers first class, comprehensive programs from kindergarten through post-secondary education. The basic education system is complemented by apprenticeship trades training programs, universities, vocational colleges, and technical institutes which have established reputations for excellence.

A quality education system has far-reaching implications. For many prospective immigrants, including those who wish to be admitted to Canada through the Business Immigration Program, the calibre of education is extremely important. In addition to thinking about the education of their children, for business men and women, considerations regarding education extend to the workers they will need and how future business plans might be affected.

Albertans are exceptionally well-educated. Alberta has more people per capita with university degrees



University of Lethbridge

than any other province in Canada. Nearly 40 percent of the general population has some level of post-secondary education, well above the Canadian average of 31.7 percent. In Calgary and Edmonton, the educational attainment levels are even higher. Close to one out of every five working age persons in these cities has a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, while nine out of every 10 have been to high school.

ALBERTA NEWS is published quarterly to provide information to our clients and colleagues. This edition will focus on various aspects of Alberta's education system and address some of the most frequently asked questions.

If you have any comments or suggestions for content in future editions, or if you would like additional copies of this publication, please contact:

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Alberta
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT
Immigration and Settlement



Studying architectural drafting

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Although it is not possible in this publication to describe completely the many details of Alberta's education system, following are responses to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Q. Who may access a basic education program in Alberta?

A. Every individual who at September 1 in a year is 6 years of age or older and younger than 19 years, and who is a Canadian citizen or is lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent or temporary residence, is entitled to have access in that year to an education program in accordance with the School Act.

All resident children between the ages of six and 16 are required to attend school either in a non-denominational or a Roman Catholic school, often referred to as the public and separate school systems respectively.

Q. Who is described as a foreign student and subject to pay foreign student fees?

A. A student whose parents are citizens of and resident in another country. (At the present time, since no provincial age guidelines have been established for the admission of foreign students, requirements may vary among local jurisdictions.)

Q. What is required for a foreign student to be admitted into Canada to participate in a course of study?

A. A foreign student who has a letter of acceptance from a qualifying Alberta

school may apply for a Student Visa at the Immigration Section of a Canadian High Commission, Embassy or Consulate outside Canada. The applicant must meet the relevant immigration regulations.

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Schoolyard fun



University of Calgary



Training for a career in aircraft maintenance



Grant MacEwan Community College, Edmonton is one of 11 public colleges

Questions and Answers continued

Q. How is the administration of the basic education system structured?

A. Alberta has a central Department of Education which develops province-wide education policy. The administration of schools is a local responsibility. A provincial curriculum is set for grades 1 to 12, but provincial examinations are administered only at the grade 12 level.

Q. How are divisions in basic education set?

A. Preschool:
 • private programs only
 • ages 3-4 years

Elementary:
 • Kindergarten

- age 5 years, approximately
- Grades 1 to 6
- ages 6 years to 11 years, approximately

Junior High School:

- Grades 7 to 9
- ages 12 years to 14 years, approximately

Senior High School:

- Grades 10 to 12
- ages 15 years to 18 years, approximately

Q. How long is the school year for elementary and secondary students? When and how long are the vacations?

A. The school year extends from September 1 to June 30, with two months of vacation in July and August, as well as two weeks vacation over Christmas and in the spring.

Q. How long is the school day?

A. Including lunch and recess breaks, the day is 6.5 hours.

Q. How much are tuition fees for basic education?

A. Public and separate schools are funded through property taxes and revenues from the provincial government. Therefore, Canadian citizens and permanent residents do not pay tuition fees. The cost to non-residents is approximately \$5,000 per year.

Q. How much are tuition fees in Private Elementary and Secondary schools?

A. Permanent residents should expect to pay \$2,000 or more per year, while the costs to non-residents are likely to be \$5,000 or more.

Q. What are the enrolment procedures for children transferring to Alberta schools from another country?

A. Parents should contact the school jurisdiction where they wish to have their children attend. The school principal will determine the placement of the children in appropriate grades.

Q. What are the requirements for English language proficiency in the Elementary and Secondary schools? How is a lack of English handled?

A. There are no provincial requirements in this regard. Local school jurisdictions may have specific standards depending on whether or not they have an English as a Second

Language (E.S.L.) program. Some schools offer E.S.L. programs in both Elementary and Secondary grades.

Q. What are the requirements for English language proficiency in post-secondary institutions?

A. Each institution is responsible for establishing the standards which must be met. Language skill

is usually measured using the TOEFL test.

Q. What is the scope of the post-secondary education system?

A. An extensive range of high-quality post-secondary educational options are offered by both public and private institutions throughout the province. These educational institutions include five Universities, three Technical Institutes,

four Vocational Centres, four Private Colleges, 11 Public Colleges, and six hospital-based Schools of Nursing.

Q. What expenses are the responsibility of post-secondary students?

A. In addition to tuition, students must pay for books and supplies, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, recreation, and entertainment.

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University of Alberta Hospitals have excellent teaching facilities

Questions and Answers continued

Q. What are the average tuition fees for post- secondary educational institutions?

- A.** Universities:
\$1,000 - 1,300
Technical Institutes:
\$650
Public Colleges:
\$500 - 650
Foreign students should
expect to pay an
additional differential
fee of approximately 50
percent of the basic
tuition.

Q. What are the average monthly living expenses for post-

**secondary students
who are not living
with their parents?**

- A.** Single student:
\$600 - 900
Family of three:
\$1,300 - 1,600
Family of five:
\$1,800 - 2,100

Q. How may more information be obtained about the more than 50 designated trades in Alberta?

- A.** Additional information
is available from:
Apprenticeship and
Trade Certification
Alberta Career
Development and
Employment

10th Floor
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4L5
Telephone:
(403) 427-8765

Q. How may more information be obtained regarding the basic education system in Alberta?

- A.** Additional information
is available from:
Communications Branch
Alberta Education
2nd Floor
Devonian Building
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0L2
Telephone:
(403) 427-7219

Q. How may more information be obtained regarding programs and institutions in Alberta's post- secondary system?

- A.** The publication "It's
About Time... To Start
Thinking About Your
Future" is available
from:
Immigration and
Settlement
Alberta Career
Development and
Employment
11th Floor
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4L5
Telephone:
(403) 427-0537



Students benefit from extensive library resources



The "butterdome" recreational complex at the University of Alberta, Edmonton

Q. How may information be obtained regarding the registration and certification of professions and occupations in Alberta?

A. The publication containing addresses for professional licensing bodies, "Directory: Certification and Regulation Bodies for Professions and Occupations in Alberta" may be obtained by contacting:

Immigration and Settlement
 Alberta Career Development and Employment
 11th Floor
 10155 - 102 Street
 Edmonton, Alberta
 T5J 4L5

Telephone:
 (403) 427-0537



Computers in the classroom

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION



The Business Immigration Program enables individuals with successful business experience to choose Alberta as the location for their business and residence.

Prospective business immigrants are invited to visit Alberta to assess the viability of their proposed business venture and to see for themselves the many advantages which Alberta offers. With advance notice of such a visit, we will be pleased to meet with visitors and arrange an itinerary of meetings with appropriate business contacts.

Visitors to **Edmonton** and northern Alberta who wish to discuss the Business Immigration Program may contact:

Ms. Viviane Hanson
(Entrepreneur and Self-Employed Categories)

or

Mr. Pat Shanahan
(Investor Category)

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Visitors to **Calgary** and southern Alberta, including Red Deer, who would like to discuss the Business Immigration Program may contact:

Mr. Tony Pugh
Immigration and Settlement
Alberta Career Development and Employment
8th Floor
855 - 8 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3P1

Telephone:
(403) 297-4491
Facsimile:
(403) 297-5183

Enquirers in th **United Kingdom, Europe and Scandinavia** who wish to obtain information about Alberta and the Business Immigration Program may contact:

Mr. Geoff Davey
Alberta House
1 Mount Street
London, England
W1Y 5AA

Telephone: 01-491-3430
Telex: 51-23461 +
Facsimile: 01-629-2296

Enquirers in **Southeast Asia** who wish to obtain information about Alberta and the Business Immigration Program may contact:

Mr. Jack C. Lee
Government of Alberta
Rooms 1003-4, Tower II
Admiralty Centre
18 Harcourt Road
Central, Hong Kong
Telephone: 5-284729
Telex: 802-61961 +
Facsimile: 5-298115

In our next edition of **ALBERTA NEWS** we will discuss housing alternatives in Alberta.

PLACES IN ALBERTA



ALBERTA IN THE WORLD

Distances between Alberta and major cities of the world (in kilometres)



Carpentry and cabinetmaking are designated trades